

2/27/97

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## JPL Director Responds to Lawsuit; Says Water Safe

In the Feb. 21 issue of the *JPL Universe*, and in partial response to allegations over a lawsuit filed against JPL over several cases of Hodgkin's disease which, in the suit, blames JPL, the director's office released the following statement.

"The Environmental Protection Agency has designated JPL as a Superfund site because of very low levels of ground water contamination that appear to have resulted from waste-disposal practices that took place more than 30 years ago. However, there is no basis to believe that contaminants from JPL could have entered the drinking water in La Cañada and caused the illnesses claimed by the plaintiffs."

The statement further reads: "The community should be assured that there is no route of exposure to contaminants in the ground water for those who work at or live near the Lab. In addition, drinking water is continually monitored and tested to ensure its safety and that it meets all federal and state standards."

"As always, JPL takes every reasonable precaution to safeguard the health of its employees and neighbors."



**RECEIVE AWARD** — Presenting a \$100 award to the Crescenta-Cañada YMCA are members of the Santa Anita Foundation. From left are Richard N. Mackay, foundation vice president; Timothy Hardy, associate general director, CCYMCA; Dennis J. Croxen, CEO CCYMCA; and Dr. Richard Call, foundation president.

## CCYMCA Receives Foundation Award

The Crescenta-Cañada YMCA was the recipient of a \$1000 award from the Santa Anita Foundation. The award contribution will kick-off CCYMCA's Annual Current Support fund raiser and will go towards supplementing children's programming at the "Y." Dennis J. Croxen, CEO and Timothy Hardy, Associ-

ate General Director, of the Crescenta-Cañada YMCA were there to accept the check from Dr. Richard Call, president of the foundation, and Richard N. Mackay, vice president at the Director's Room at the Santa Anita Race Track.

The Santa Anita Foundation has distributed more than \$26

million since 1945 to charitable causes.

"We are very grateful for the support and generosity of the Foundation," says Dennis Croxen, CEO of CCYMCA, and hope that this is the start of a successful Current Support Campaign for us this year."

The Annual Current Support campaign began Feb. 20 and runs through March 19. All the proceeds go to aid and supplement CCYMCA programming.

## CITY Community Services Achieves CARF Accreditation

CITY Community Services has received accreditation by Commission Accreditation Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission, for a period of three years for its Employment Services; Community Employment Services programs. It is the third consecutive time CITY has received the accreditation.

CITY Community Services is a non-profit organization with offices at 1030 Foothill Blvd., Suite 204 in LCP. It has been providing employment services throughout the Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara Counties and Denver, Colorado areas since 1986.

The accreditation represents the highest level of accreditation and is awarded to organizations which show substantial fulfillment of the standards established by CARF.

The people who work on the CITY community serv-

ices are people with disabilities, but reliable, good workers. Many local businesses have used their services.

"CITY Community Services has put itself through a rigid peer review process and has demonstrated that its rehabilitation programs are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable," said Donald E. Galvin, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of CARF.

CARF is a private, non-profit Tucson-based organization established in 1966. It is committed to enhancing quality rehabilitation services utilizing a peer review process.

For information about CITY or to arrange to hire CITY workers call Marilyn Cutlin at 952-2489.

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they have indicated that the city will have a right of first refusal to purchase the property at fair market value. The property is approximately one acre in size. City staff says that in 1980 CalTrans approached the City Council for endorsement of its use of the land as a Park and Ride lot. At that time council agreed to contribute \$5,000 for landscaping, but placed several conditions on the arrangement. One of those conditions was that if the facility



**A LOT FULL OF BUSES** — This parking lot of Embree buses at the CalTrans Verdugo Park and Ride lot in La Canada Flintridge has been the focal point of many complaint calls to the city over the last two weeks. Approximately 30-40 buses, says CalTrans, will "temporarily" be parked there for six months while quake retrofitting is completed where they normally park in Pasadena.

should cease to be used as a Park and Ride, the parking facility would be removed and within two years of the termination of that use, be

landscaped in a manner compatible with other freeway landscaping in the vicinity. Many calls of complaint

have been received by the city to date concerning the ugliness of the bus-filled lot and the item has been placed on city council's agenda for

its February 18 meeting. That meeting will be called to order at 6 p.m. in council chambers, 1327 Foothill Blvd.

2/13/97

## Lawsuit Charges Arroyo Water Was Tainted by JPL

### Local Officials Say LCF Water Is Safe

by Eileen Ferber  
A lawsuit alleging that the Jet Propulsion Lab in La Canada Flintridge caused several cancer cases through dumping of toxic chemicals into the Arroyo Seco and the water supply under it several decades ago appears to be expanding as other possible litigants learn of the story.

The original plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed Jan. 10 in Los Angeles County Superior Court were all students at St. Bede School in La Canada in the 1970s. All later developed Hodgkins disease, and one, Francesca Salvo, died of the disease in 1989. The other two plaintiffs are Tamara Valier, 30, and Romona Higley, 37, both of Sunland.

Attorney Clifford Pearson, representing the plaintiffs, said five additional former St. Bede students with health problems have presented themselves recently. Another case involves a man who attended Pasadena Art Center in the Linda Vista area and later died of Hodgkins Disease.

Frank O'Donnell, speaking on behalf of JPL, said that while he cannot comment further on a pending lawsuit, "there is no substance to the allegations against JPL and the lab will

defend its position vigorously."

JPL has approximately 30 days to respond to the allegations. It could take up to one and one-half years or more for the "case" to be heard in court, if it is not settled out of court or in another manner.

The Valley Water Company, the source of supply for St. Bede, La Canada High School and the now-closed Oak Grove Elementary School says its water has been tested since the 1960s and it has met the standards set for water in that time period.

A spokesperson for the Valley Water Company said that since 1980 an aeration plant takes out 100 percent of the pollutants in the water. It is now regularly monitored. Water for this area comes from local wells and the Colorado River.

According to attorney Pearson, two law firms have filed the suit in Los Angeles Superior Court. Both firms, he said, have worked on similar cases in the past, including one last summer involving toxins at the Lockheed plant in Burbank. The case

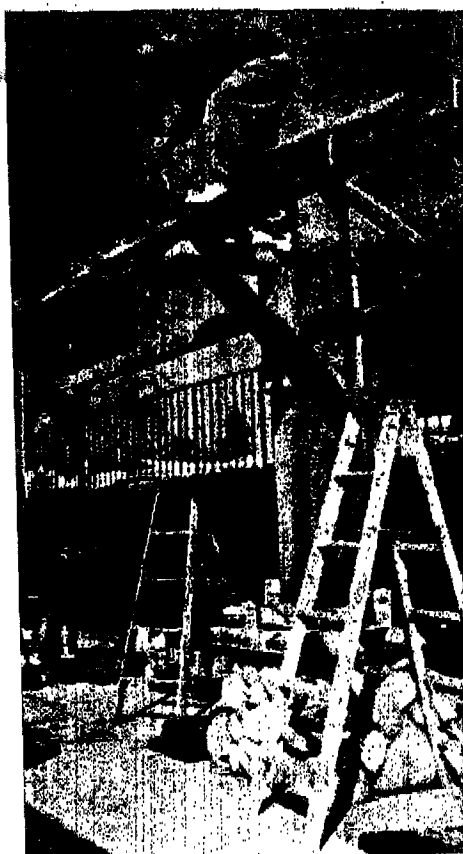
was settled out of court, but it was the notoriety of that case which precipitated the calls about the St. Bede incident and now the one from the Pasadena Art Center, according to Pearson.

He said a State of California study from the Department of Health Services on cancer incidents from 1988-91 indicates that white females have a 2.2 chance in 100,000 of contracting Hodgkins. When all races are considered, the chance of getting it is more like one in 50,000.

The complaint alleges JPL dumped 23 "highly toxic and dangerous materials" into the ground, groundwater, air and sewers at or near the site. In talking with several scientists, it was their consensus that evidence of specific contaminants in the water before measurements were made by the water company, beginning in 1980, would be very difficult to ascertain.

A representative from the Municipal Water District said that LCF is a part of the Monk Hill Portion of the Raymond Basin which

(Continued on A4)



are shown as they construct one of five covers for buses

## Bus Benches Under Cover

Two weeks, the benches should all be installed in approximately six weeks, according to Chapman. Work is being completed on the covers by the West Valley Investment Group, the contractor for the job.

Locations of the five covers are along Foothill Boulevard at Gould Avenue, Oakwood Avenue, La Canada Boulevard, Hillside Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard.

The covers are based on one obtained from local companies. Maintenance for the benches and covers will be next year's budget to

take care of regular maintenance, said Chapman.

The idea of the benches is the brainchild of City Councilwoman Joan Feehan, who Chapman said worked diligently for about six years to see the project to fruition.

Locations for the covers were determined by looking at drainage, utility pole placement, space to build the covers and how many people waited at each location for buses. The covers are all located on the north side of Foothill because of the sun's intensity on that side of the boulevard.

## Sign Charges Against 37 LCF Businesses Go to District Atty

There are 37 businesses in La Canada Flintridge whose names have been sent to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution for signs which do not comply with the city's sign

ordinances. The businesses have been warned and cited for failure to adhere to city laws governing temporary and other signage.

## 11-Year-Old Anne Siegal Offers Comfort to Animals in Need

by Ferera Kakermes  
Eleven year old Anne Siegal of La Canada has given the gift of comfort to animals in need at the Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA. Anne, a PHS member for the last year and a half, donated her saved allowance towards the purchase of warming pads for kittens and puppies awakening from spay and neuter surgery.

Her love of animals started early with the family's four dogs. A traumatic experience when Anne was six years old led to a growing awareness that pets are often vulnerable to human abuse. The family's favorite dog "Zausner" had run away to play and explore several



Anne Siegal

On this occasion, Zausner failed to return. Using the telephone number on Zausner's tag, an unknown person called and

pointed out for exchange, leaving Anne and her family heartbroken.

Following Zausner's kidnapping, Anne and her family searched animal shelters throughout L.A. County and as far as Orange County for six months, without success.

A few years later, Anne visited the PHS with the hope of bringing home a new puppy. Although she later acquired a puppy elsewhere, that visit to the PHS was the beginning of a continuing relationship with the animal shelter.

First came Anne's decision to join PHS as a paid member. This

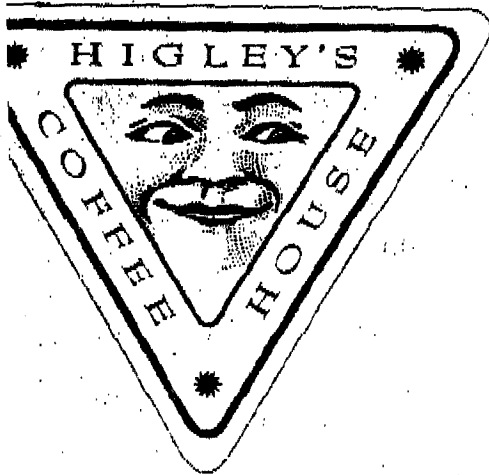
**La Canada Flintridge**

72 (22.2)	41 (05.7)
74 (23.3)	41 (05.0)
72 (22.2)	41 (05.0)
69 (20.8)	42 (05.7)
73 (22.8)	38 (03.3)
66 (18.9)	42 (05.7)
69 (20.6)	38 (03.3)

### 'ALL ABOUT TREES' LCVB MTC, FEB. 27

La Canada Valley Beautiful is sponsoring a community meeting Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in LCF City Council Chambers, 1327 Foothill Blvd. Craig Steward,

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## JPL Lawsuit Over Hodgkins Disease

(Continued from Page A2)

serves Pasadena, Altadena and several other local areas. None of the water companies in this area, he said, ever failed any standards. He said the sensitivity of detection is improved now that technology has become more sophisticated. What they previously measured in "parts per hundred" is now measured in "parts per billions." In an interview with Dr. Wendy Cozen, an assistant professor at USC and a medical epidemiologist at the USC/Norris Cancer Center in Los Angeles, she said there are four types of Hodgkins disease. Death as a result of Hodgkins is rare, she said. Nodular sclerosis, the most common type of Hodgkins, and in question in this case, has a very high recovery rate.

She said Hodgkins is not a disease associated with chemical exposure. It is a disease associated with affliction rather than toxins.

"For young adults there is no evidence that exposure to chemicals has anything to do with the etiology of the disease," Cozen said.

While not making comment on this specific case, Cozen said the demographic profiles indicate white race, from higher education and higher economic backgrounds and ages 15-35.

She explained that children from higher economic, affluent families generally have fewer siblings and have less exposure to other children at the critical ages of two to three years.

"Because their affluent environment exposes them to childhood diseases at a later age, they often get those diseases as adolescents or young adults," said Cozen.

According to staff at the La Canada Unified School District office, no one knew of any calls related to

Hodgkins either from LCHS or the former Oak Grove school. Both schools are close to JPL.

In the case of the public schools, the district office noted that records are transferred to other schools or colleges when students leave, so they would have no records of any Hodgkins cases.

In 1990 the government paid \$3 million to clean cancer-causing chemicals out of water pumped from four wells in Pasadena, south of JPL.

George Alexander of JPL said that JPL never said it was the source of the chemicals but the government agreed to clean it up. The lab currently has a filter plant on site.

The Arroyo Seco site, which is now JPL, was originally occupied by the Caltech Rocket Laboratory, headed by Professor Theodore von Karman.

During WWII the site was taken over by the army to support the war effort and was operated by the U.S. Army after the war. The name JPL came into existence in the mid 1940s. In 1958 it became part of the newly-formed NASA.

## OPPORTUNITIES FAIR FOR SUMMER FEB. 22

The 1997 Summer Opportunities Fair sponsored by the Assistance League of Flintridge is set for Saturday, Feb. 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the La Canada High School cafeteria. Since there is no summer school for grades 1 through 8 this year due to schools' construction and modernization work, more than 40 providers of children's summer programs will be on hand with exciting alternatives. Free.

## L.C. THURSDAY CLUB OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

For the 35th year the La Canada Thursday Club is offering scholarships to qualified high school seniors and presently-enrolled college students. Students must live in the 91011 postal zone. Each student must return one application and two letters of recommendation. The student must be a U.S. citizen.

Factors in determining final awards are academic excellence, promise, citizenship, character and financial need.

Applications will be available at La Canada High School or by contacting Mrs. Denise Johnson, Thursday Club Scholarship committee chairman, 3314 Crowa Ave., La Canada at 790-0609.

The deadline for turning in the applications and recommendations is this Feb. 14. In 1993 \$4000 was awarded to outstanding students by the club. Although there is no promise that this amount will be given, this is a substantial scholarship award.

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*Joan McDonald*

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*Colleen Haggerty*  
*Sen. Feinstein's office*